**Minutes of Uppingham Town Council Full Council meeting,**

**held at Uppingham Town Hall on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Cllrs Liz Clarke, David Ainslie, Lindsay Cooper, Pat Dalby, Christine Edwards, Sam Findlay, Mike Fish, Barry Hobbs, Godfrey Jennings, Peter Rees, Mark Shaw, Ron Simpson, Ray Sutton (but this list is amended by minute 721/24).

In attendance: County Cllr C Wise, approx. 30 members of the public and Locum Clerk P Leppard

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| 712/24  713/24  714/24  715/24  716/24  717/24  718/24  719/24  720/24  721/24  722/24  723/24  724/24  725/24  726/24  727/24  728/24  729/24  730/24  731/24  732/24  733/24  734/24 | a  b  c  d  e  f  g | **Mayor’s opening remarks**  Cllr Ainslie thanked a number of people for their part in the successful D-Day80 military parade, also noting that sadly D-Day veteran Dennis Wright had since passed away. Cllr Ainslie also advised that he was exercising the Mayor’s discretion to, for this meeting, disapply the requirement in Standing Orders to stand while speaking.  **To receive apologies for absence**  It was resolved that apologies from Cllr Colbourne (conflicting engagement) be accepted. It was noted that Cllr Johnson had earlier today resigned from the Council.  **Declarations of members’ interests and applications for dispensations**  Cllr Shaw declared interests in agenda items 14 (through association with a grant application) and 18a (as the payee of a proposed payment). Cllr Simpson declared interests in agenda items 13 (as Chair of Rutland CPRE), 14 (through association with a grant application) 18a (as the payee of a proposed payment) and 18e (as a director of Leicestershire & Rutland ALC).  **To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting on 20 May**  It was resolved to confirm the minutes of this meeting.  **An opportunity for the public to speak**  Various members of the public spoke about (a) the variance in different parts of England between directly-elected Mayors and councillor-elected Mayors, (b) Uppingham in Bloom’s judging day on 5 July, (c) a dispute between Uppingham Late Night Shopping and Uppingham First, (d) a perception of the role of Uppingham First and (e) frequency of emptying of public litter-bins.  **Reports from County Councillor(s)**  County Cllr Wise spoke about (a) verge-cutting frequencies and (b) RCC’s new Highways contractor.  **Changes to governance documents**  It was resolved to adopt (with one further amendment to section 1.8) the revised version of the Council’s Constitution document which had been circulated.  **Membership of committees and groups**  It was resolved that (a) membership of the Performance Review Group will henceforth be Cllrs Clarke, Colbourne, Cooper, Hobbs and Simpson, and (b) deciding the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee’s membership be deferred to the next meeting.  **Poor’s Land At Ashton charity**  It was resolved that Cllr Shaw will be the Council’s nominated Trustee on this charity.  **Statement of concern**  Cllr Rees made a personal statement of concern, which concluded with his resignation from the Council. Cllr Findlay then also gave his resignation. Cllr Cooper expressed gratitude to Cllrs Rees and Findlay for their long and dedicated service to the Council. Cllrs Dalby, Fish, Jennings and Sutton then also gave their resignations. *(There were thus 7 councillors remaining for the rest of this meeting.)*  **Memorial seat**  In was resolved to write to RCC in support of a resident’s recent request for permission to install a memorial seat on Leicester Rd. **Action: Clerk**  **Review of Council’s complaints procedure**  It was resolved that a revised version of this will be drafted by Cllrs Clarke, Edwards and Shaw, for subsequent Council approval. **Action: EC/CE/MS**    **Rutland Local Plan and Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan**  A consultation had been received from RCC about an additional new-housing site (off Stockerston Rd) for possible inclusion in the revised Local Plan. Cllr Ainslie explained the context of this in relation to the draft revised Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan. After discussion, it was resolved to respond to RCC that the site should be rejected, as it (a) is too big for Uppingham’s needs, (b) is unlikely to be in character with the adjacent areas of the town and (c) would have unacceptably poor access. **Action: Clerk**  It was further resolved to obtain the services of consultant Colin Wilkinson (at £500/day) to optimise effective presentation of the Town Council’s arguments in response to the Neighbourhood Plan Assessor’s current queries. **Action: Clerk**  **Grant applications**  It was resolved to (a) decline an application from Citizens Advice Rutland, (b) invite Uppingham Late Night Shopping to resubmit their application in a way more acceptable to the Council and (c) offer a £500 grant to Uppingham Feast, but only if past accounts for the event are supplied which the Clerk, with delegated authority from the Council hereby given, is satisfied make a suitable case for a grant award. **Action: Clerk**  **Fundraising via collection of recycled clothing**  It was resolved to be supportive in principle of a proposal received from Astco, but subject to the Clerk investigating the local practicalities of operation. **Action: Clerk**  **The Council’s Vision, Aims & Objectives**  It was resolved to endorse (except for substituting improved wording for the Vision) a document tabled by Cllr Ainslie containing the collated thoughts of councillors.  **Locum Clerk’s report**  This item was not taken, owing to insufficient time to do so.  **Finance**  It was resolved to authorise the tabled schedule of accounts for payment, totalling £16,145.69.  It was resolved (i) to receive the Internal Auditor’s report for FY23/24 and (ii) that the issues it raised will be considered in more detail by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. **Action: F&GP**  The Clerk advised the Council that the content of the Internal Audit report necessitated, in his view, some ‘No’ answers to the questions in the Council’s FY23/24 Annual Governance Statement. The Council however resolved that, with the exception of one ‘No’ answer, this was not necessary, and to sign the Statement on that basis.  It was resolved to sign the Annual Accounting Statement for FY2023/24.  It was resolved to ask LRALC to become the Council’s internal auditor for FY24/25.  **Action: Clerk**  It was resolved that all 8 current councillors will become signatories on the Council’s bank accounts. **Action: Clerk**  It was resolved to receive the monthly Finance reports for April and May, and these were signed.  **Planning applications**  It was resolved to comment to RCC’s Planning department as follows: **Action: Clerk**   * 2024/0588/CLP (43 Lime Tree Ave): No objection * 2024/0594/FUL (28/30 High St E): Town Council is happy to support the view of RCC’s Conservation Officer * 2023/1101/FUL (Woodlands Animal Reserve, London Rd): Objection originally made by Town Council in December 2023 was re-affirmed.   It was also noted that RCC has refused application 2024/0251/FUL (57A High St E).    **Exclusion of press & public**  It was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, s1.  **Extension of meeting**  It was resolved to allow the meeting to extend 10 minutes after 2100hrs.  **Staff matter**  It was resolved to support the resolution of the matter proposed by the Clerk.  **Recruitment of new Town Clerk**  A progress update was given as to applications received and intended interview dates. It was resolved that any member of the Staffing Committee who wishes to do so may sit on the interviewing panel; the Locum Clerk will be available for advice if required.  During this item, it was resolved to allow the meeting to extend by a further 10 minutes.  The meeting closed at 9.15pm.  Signed:………………………………………………………………………..…… Date:…………………………… |
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